



Water Resources Division's Aquatic Invasive Species of the Week!

FOR THE WEEK OF:

June 17-23, 2013

Water Chestnut

Trapa natans

Origin: Europe, Asia, and Africa. Introduced to North America in 1877.

Description: Rooted, aquatic plant with both floating and submersed leaves. The floating leaves are green and are triangular with toothed edges. The submersed leaves are feathery. The seeds contain four sharp spines and can live in the sediment for up to 12 years!

Habitat: Shallow areas of lakes and ponds, and slow-moving streams and rivers

Status of Distribution: Currently found in Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.
NOT CURRENTLY VERIFIED IN MICHIGAN.

Impacts: Can crowd out native plants- one water chestnut plant can quickly reproduce 300 more in a single year! Also forms dense mats that prevent sunlight from penetrating the water.



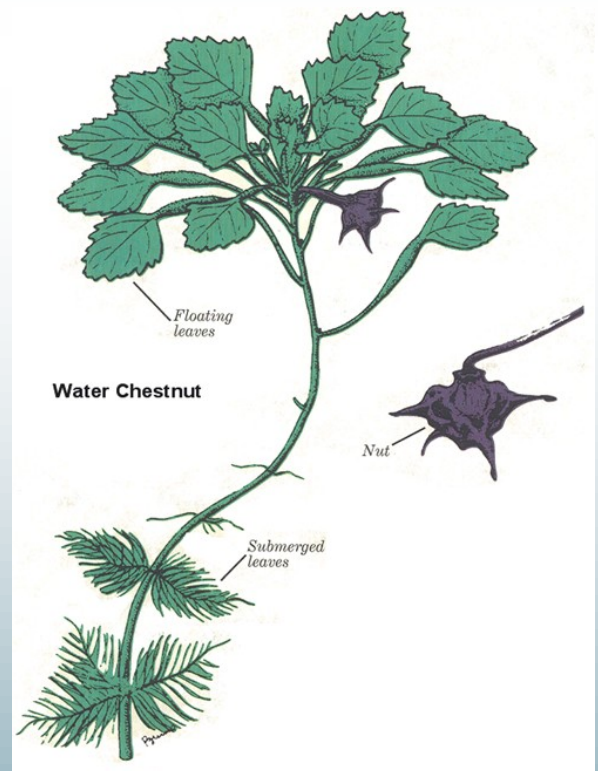
THIS IS NOT THE SAME WATER
CHESTNUT USED IN CHINESE FOOD

Early detection is key to eradicating this plant from a water body. If you think you see water chestnut, report it to your local DNR or MDARD office ASAP!

For more information, visit the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network's website at
www.misin.msu.edu



Photo: EPA



Drawing: USFWS